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(TRANSLATION)

EMBASSY OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE
1618 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

No. 143/AMB/ECA/W

The Embassy of the Central African Empire in the United States of America presents its compliments to the Department of State, to the diplomatic missions accredited at Washington, D.C., and to international organizations, and has the honor to bring to their attention the Central African Empire's formal denial of the Agence France Presse dispatch which reported that an attempt had been made on the life of His Imperial Majesty Bokassa I.

On April 22, 1979, an Agence France Presse dispatch sent from Ndjamena and broadcast by Radio-France Internationale reported that:

1. "Emperor Bokassi I of the Central African Empire apparently escaped last week from an attack with automatic weapons in which his automobile is said to have been riddled with bullets...However, the travelers and diplomatic circles through which this information is

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being conveyed make no mention of the circumstances under which the attack might have been perpetrated, since, they say, terror reigns in Bangui and everyone is acting very cautiously."

2. The same dispatch adds that:

"The trial of the parents of students is reported to have begun Friday in Bangui."

The Government of the Central African Empire most formally denies these untruthful and slanderous allegations which are totally without any basis in fact.

The Government solemnly affirms that:

1. His Majesty Bokassa I has at no time been the victim of an attack in recent days;

2. On Friday, April 20, 1979, His Imperial Majesty chaired an important meeting of the single national party, MESAN (Social Evolution Movement of Black Africa), which was also attended by all of the ambassadors and chiefs of the diplomatic missions in Bangui. During this meeting, held as one of the regular contact sessions with the various Party entities, His Imperial Majesty was given a warm ovation.

It should be recalled that the Central African Empire has vainly invited Agence France Presse on several occasions to name a correspondent to Bangui.

Thus, one can only wonder whether a secret agent in Bangui has been specially assigned by Agence France Presse to invent and disseminate, from

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peripheral agencies, willfully slanderous and untruthful news items.

The Central African Government strongly condemns these unfriendly actions, which seriously threaten the amicable relations which the Central African Empire is eager to maintain with all countries cherishing the same ideals of justice and peace.

[Complimentary close]

Washington, D.C., April 26, 1979

[Initialed]
[Embassy seal]

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